

# DUXBURY YACHT CLUB—Then and Now

In January 1940 Mr. and Mrs. Stanley O. MacMullen of Newton bought (from the widow of Harry Hunt) a house and garage on waterfront property on Freeman Place. Mr. MacMullen remembers that January well, for the harbor was frozen.

A short time later Edwin M. Noyes gave him a photo which the late Paul C. Peterson took in 1910. It was an enlarged snapshot of the first Duxbury Yacht Club. That Yacht Club is now the MacMullen garage.

The 2 piazzas that rimmed the building when it was a Yacht Club are gone, but a door on the second floor, which now opens into space, is a reminder of the piazza it once opened onto. Still there is a beam which Francis C. Rogerson remembers dancing around when he was in his teens. The MacMullens have reconditioned the former Yacht Club, which was once located at the seawall protecting the MacMullen property. At low tide you can see some of the original pilings that supported the building. Mr. MacMullen has a bracket that held the Yacht Club's burgee.

On the second floor he put in dormers and a picture window that gives a grand seaview from a room that is about 18 by 24 feet. There is a modern kitchen and a bedroom in these attractive quarters which are occupied by Mary MacMullen Freytag, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. MacMullen.

The second and present clubhouse was built in 1914. Can anyone tell us when the first clubhouse (the present MacMullen garage) was built and by whom?

The old Duxbury Yacht Club was organized in 1876 with Com. T. A. Hutchins, Vice-Com. W. J. Wright and Sec. J. M. Cushing as officers, sailing under a red-tailed burgee, which had a blue triangle on the luff, carrying a white star. Two regattas were held the first year with 40 starters crossing the line in one. Racing continued off and on the next few seasons.

A union regatta was held under the colors of the Duxbury club Aug. 16, 1879. Four classes raced. Winners were Syren, L. H. Keith; Thisbe, L. Litchfield; Peerless, S. W. Gifford, and the Annie M., P. H. Winsor.

At the annual meeting held July 12, 1879, elected were: Commodore T. H. Hutchins; Vice Commodore, G. A. Green; fleet captain, Nathaniel Watson; secretary, G. A. Gaines; treasurer, A. G. Collicott and a board of trustees comprising M. J. Gaines, S. W. Gifford, Augustus Winsor, Omar Loring and L. H. Keith.

Fleet captain Nat Watson, last of the old guard, died in 1924 at his home on Clark's Island. He was one of the greatest of American master skippers.

Following the union regatta, Duxbury Yacht Club went into the doldrums and faded away. The club did not die, for the Standish Shore Association, acted as a link between the old and new regimes by holding a regatta Aug. 17, 1883. Racing was occasional till 1895.

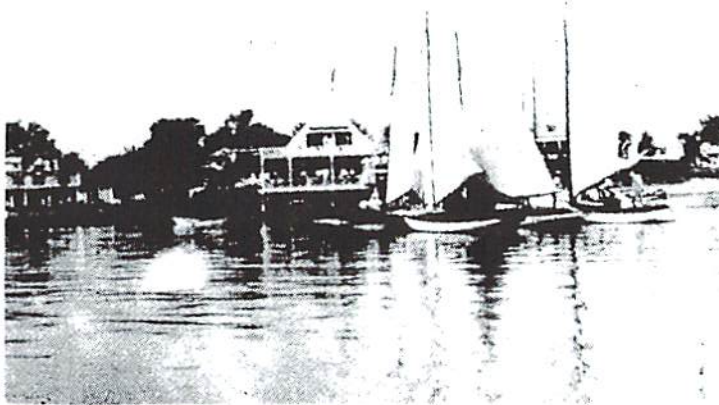
(Here is a faded newsclip that speaks for itself.)

## New Yacht Club

"The Duxbury Yacht Club was incorporated in 1895. The club house was built on Standish Shore, which was occupied by the club 2 years. Desiring a more



On the shores of Duxbury Bay you see the house which is now owned by Mr. and Mrs. Stewart Clifford. The yacht club, before it was in its present location, was just to the right of this house.



The original DYC at the end of Freeman Place. A race has just ended with the old gaff rigged sloops which were so popular in those days.

central location, a new house was built in 1897 by Cassius Hunt, which was leased by the club for a term of years. The club is in a flourishing condition, having a membership of over 100. During the season there are several regattas, and several new yachts have been added this year. The present officers: Capt. George Cushman, Commodore; Sanford Windsor, Vice-Commodore; D. D. Devereux, Secretary and Treasurer; W. M. MacDowell, Rear-Commodore; A. E. Walker, Fleet Captain; L. H. Delano, Measurer. Directors: George

Cushman, Sanford Windsor, D. D. Devereux, S. B. Chaney, Chas. Alden, Chas. Clark. The club was organized Dec. 13, 1894. Chartered Feb. 25, 1895. The first Commodore was William Melbourne MacDowell; first Vice-Commodore, John Irwin; first Secretary, D. D. Devereux, and first Treasurer, Alfred Green."

Then the modern chapter began with the incorporation of the new Duxbury Yacht Club, at the end of Water St., which changed from the old burgee to the red, white and blue pennant

diagonal stripe. The second and present clubhouse was built in 1914. The first Yacht Club building was moved to its present site at the Golf Club.

In 1928, when Duxbury had the largest racing fleet outside of Marblehead, more than 1000 boats crossed the starting line. More than 70 boats sailed 50 races in 77 days. Officers that year were Harry Hunt, Commodore; Eben H. Ellison, Vice-Commodore; William Snow, secretary; John Paine, treasurer; W. T. Glidden Jr., chairman of the race committee. The racing included 5 new 16-ft. Pilgrim class boats which made their debut in 1928; 46 Duxbury ducks, which are modified "O" boats; 42 bugs, 12 cats and 25 gaffrigged 15-footers.

Top skipper in '28 was C. Raymond Hunt, who swept the Pilgrim class with a 100 percent average in his Menace III. He twice captained Duxbury crews to the junior sailing championship for the Sears bowl at Marblehead, and in the fall of '28 with Brenda Tweed, retired the King cup, emblematic of the national mixed pair sailing championship.

Joseph Lund sailed his Quandry to the top in the duck class with a 79 percent average for the season. Walter Amesbury's Flirt led the gaff-rigged 15-footers; John Burns sailed his Gretchen to the cat honors, and George Lowe Jr. won the senior bug championship in the Midget.

Then came the modern era.

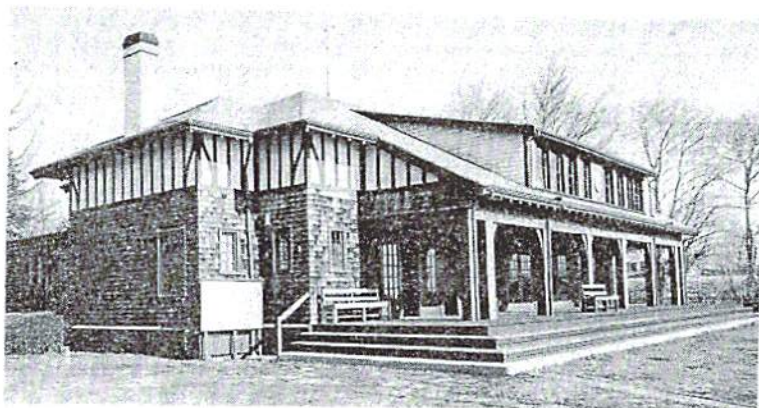
## Commodores

- 1877 - T. A. Hutchins
- 1878 - W. A. Drew
- 1879 - T. A. Hutchins
- 1880 - W. J. Wright
- 1881-1894 - Unknown
- 1895-1896 - W. M. MacDowell
- 1897-1899 - G. P. Cushman
- 1900-1901 - C. C. Clapp
- 1902-1903 - L. B. Goodspeed
- 1904 - C. C. Clapp
- 1905-1908 - A. R. Train
- 1909-1910 - W. H. Potter



YACHT CLUB

(Continued from Page 10)



Present club house. [Photos by Blaisdell]

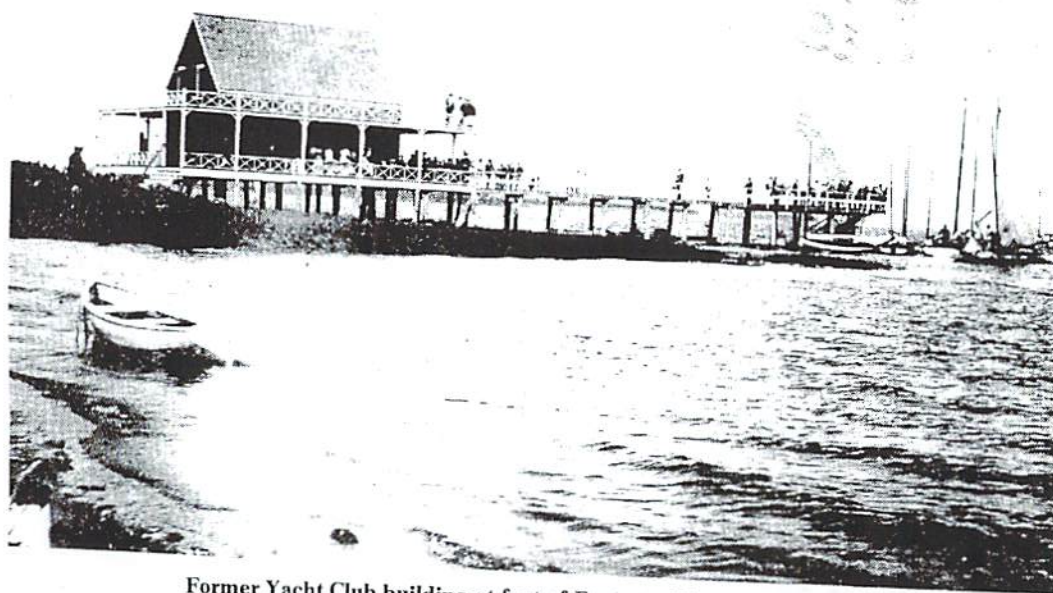
1911-1913 - G. W. Benedict	1947-1948 - H. G. Francke
1914-1916 - F. R. Maxwell	1949-1950 - J. R. Abbott
1917 - W. L. Benedict	1951-1952 - C. F. Danner
1918-1920 - S. Bell	1953-1954 - A. Loring Jr.
1921-1922 - S. Harwood	1955-1956 - C. F. Eaton Jr.
1923-1925 - C. Dwinnell	1957-1958 - E. D. Ryer
1926-1931 - H. H. Hunt	1959-1960 - F. K. Hoyt
1932-1933 - F. S. Pratt	1961-1962 - N. R. Cutler
1934 - E. S. Kelley	1963-1964 - E. M. Jennings Jr.
1935 - R. Lawson	1965-1966 - G. L. Dow Jr.
1936 - J. A. Paine	1967-1968 - F. B. Lawson
1937-1938 - E. M. Farnsworth Jr.	1968-1970 - R. Lawson Jr.
1939-1940 - W. B. Coffin	1971-1972 - E. B. Hutton
1941-1942 - A. W. Soule	1973-1974 - Winthrop B. Coffin
1943-1944 - A. R. Boynton	1975 - Charles H. Fargo
1945-1946 - W. T. Glidden	



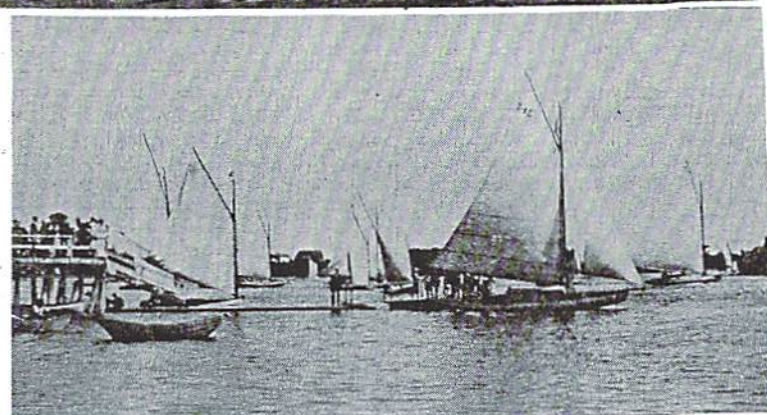
# BEST WISHES TO THE CLIPPER FROM THE DUXBURY YACHT CLUB



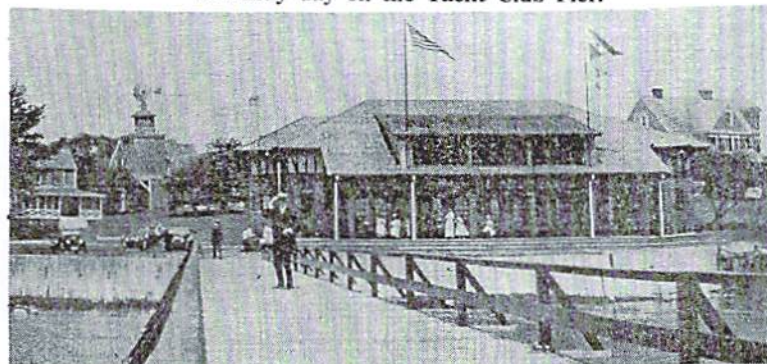
Lining up for the race. [Photo by S. P. Glidden]



Former Yacht Club building at foot of Freeman Place. When the new clubhouse was built, this one was moved to Mrs. Richard Cattell's property on Water St.



A windy day on the Yacht Club Pier.



Watching the fleet take off.